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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO
09/463,525	01/26/2000	JEAN-MARIE BERNARD	RN97085	6433

7590 01/02/2002

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EXAMINER

SERGENT, RABON A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1711

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.



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09/463,525	01/26/00	Bernard	RN97085

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Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application.

Commissioner of Patents

The reply filed on October 11, 2001 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because of the following omission(s) or matter(s): Applicants have failed to address the prior art rejection of claims 27-43, 46-51, and 55 in view of EP 680,984, set forth within paragraph 10 of the Office action. See 37 CFR 1.111. Since the above-mentioned reply appears to be *bona fide*, applicant is given a TIME PERIOD of ONE (1) MONTH or THIRTY (30) DAYS from the mailing date of this notice, whichever is longer, within which to supply the omission or correction in order to avoid abandonment. EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Furthermore, the following matters have been noted and will be formally rejected in the next Office action, if not addressed in response to this letter. Firstly, claim 29 is dependent upon canceled claim 28. Secondly, claim 27 as amended is confusing and/or lacks adequate support, because, previously, the agent bearing the carboxylic group was essentially identified as a masking agent (page 3, lines 21-24 of specification) which could optionally be present with additional non-carboxylic group containing masking agents; however, the amended claims and applicants' response appear to now differentiate the agent bearing the carboxylic group from masking agents. Accordingly, applicants' amendment and response appear to differ significantly from the invention as filed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to R. Sargent at telephone number (703) 308-2982.

R. Sargent

December 29, 2001

PTOL-90 (Rev. 6/84)


RABON SARGENT
PRIMARY EXAMINER